

# Ahmedabad Mirror

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## TOP 17 TT PLAYERS OF GUJARAT HONOURED

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## TOP 17 TT PLAYERS OF GUJARAT HONOURED

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On the occasion of World Table Tennis Day, the Gujarat Table Tennis Association (GSTTA) felicitated 17 players including All India Rank 1 Junior player Manav Thakkar along with seven coaches for their performance and contribution to the game at national and international competitions in the last two years. The felicitation ceremony was held at TransStadia in the city which was also the venue for the website launch of Table Tennis Association of Ahmedabad (TTAA). GSTTA president Vipul Mittra (IAS) and secretary Haresh Sangtani were the chief guests of the event and felicitated the players and coach during the ceremony.

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### **Great Support**

Manav Thakkar from Surat told Mirror, "This is a great honour for us. The state association is striving hard to give us the right training and platform to elevate our game and win more for Gujarat and India. This year I am headed for Belgium to participate in the Belgium Open followed by Thailand Open. The calendar also includes the national rankings and the Asian Championship and qualifiers for the World Championship."

### **TT Academy**

GSTTA Secretary, Haresh Sangtani shared about the various events slated in this calendar year in the city, "In September Asia Cup will be organised in the city which will feature top 16 players (men and women) from Asia. The championship will be organised here at TransStadia. The players will include both the world and Olympic champion as well and the prize money for the event is \$1,20,000. However, the world junior circuit that was slated to be organised at TransStadia has been postponed." Sangtani also spoke about a Table Tennis Academy for players in the state, "Top players of Gujarat will be a part of the Table Tennis Academy which will be set up here in TransStadia. The academy is in the pipeline and the focus is to give more exposure to our best players. "We will also bring in foreign coaches in the academy to give our players the competitive edge."

### **Corporate Funding**

Vipul Mitra spoke about the future of the game in the state with Mirror and stressed on the need for corporate funding, "Just like the IPL, a Table Tennis league is on the cards which has been recommended by the Table Tennis Federation of India. We want to see more corporate money flowing in for the sport, for players and for the infrastructure of the game. "The State Government is offering lot of grants for the sport; in fact Harmeet Desai received more than Rs 40 lakh by the state government for his training.